

VERY HANDMADE

FROM: BIRMINGHAM

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MAY 12 2003

FCC - MAILROOM

Dear Chairman Powell,

PLEASE do not bring the new FCC regulations regarding media ownership to a vote on June 2. Do collect input from across the country giving us, the American public, ample opportunity to comment on the proposed rule changes. To do otherwise is to violate our democratic principles.

THANK YOU, Suzanne Garfield

Michael Powell, Chair
F.C.C.
445 12th St. SW
Washington D.C. 2055.

02-277

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Carmen Sholly
1570 Glenview Rd Apt 71B
Seal Beach CA 90740-4123

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

02-271

Attn: Michael Powell

I hope that the Commission
will not loosen the
media ownership
restriction that are
in our place.

Too much control can
be a dangerous thing.

Thank you,
Pod -

5-61-03

BY IAN MASTERS

If information is the oxygen of democracy, the United States has just been gassed, not by weapons of mass destruction but by a weapon of mass distraction

With George W. Bush basking in glorious ratings and Fox News climbing in the ratings, we may be moving toward a coronation instead of a reelection in 2004. It was, after all, Rupert Murdoch's unilateral anointment of Bush as the winner in the early hours of the morning after the undecided 2000 election that led Al Gore to foolishly concede because he and the other networks believed what they saw on Fox Television.

Now the marriage between a government and its volunteer information ministry has been consecrated by the blessed victory of "Operation Iraqi Freedom," the geopolitical equivalent of an O.J. meets "Millionaire" wrapped in the

Totalitarian regimes don't tolerate any distinction between journalism and propaganda, but in most democratic countries unprecedented for the free press to abandon Joseph Pulitzer for the methods of Joseph Goebbels.

How did a bo— again, family-values administrator get in bed with a purveyor of misogyny and mayhem, trash and titillation? The common thread, for all the

public piety, has to be the late Lee Atwater, who was friend, mentor and role model to George W., Karl Rove and Roger Ailes, the head hound in the Fox pound of junkyard attack-dog journalism.

This undemocratic confluence of politics and propaganda has long been in the making as corporate media have been incrementally empowered while public influence, input and "interest" have been eliminated.

The transformation of active citizens into passive consumers was enabled by the Federal Communications Commission under Ronald Reagan's Mark Fowler, who declared "the perception of broadcasters as community trustees should be replaced by a view of broadcasters as marketplace participants."

Welcome to America, Mr Murdoch. You can buy the airwaves and, who knows, some day the presidency.

TV's Fox could not get away with its shameless shilling for the White House if the Fairness Doctrine were still in place, and radio's Clear Channel monopoly could not be able to impose wall-to-wall Limbaugh, Hannity and Savage, etc., on the public if broadcasters were accountable to public opinion rather than the dictates of plutocrats.

How could it be that in the land of the free and the home of the brave Americans are afraid

of opinions? Where are the Tom Paines, the Mark Twains, the Menckens, the Ida Tarbells?

Dissent has not gone away, it has just been marginalized by monopolies and relegated to the interstices of the Internet.

But the hammer is about to drop on the Internet too. The head of the FCC, Michael Powell, wants to give away what's left of the store to the broadband cable and satellite providers and make them gatekeepers or tollbooths on the information highway.

It used to be that the Internet was accessed via a common carrier, the phone company, but as technology has moved forward, these new unregulated media monopolies have increasing control over the information pipeline. Without regulation, they have the ability to choose what content they provide.

Two FCC commissioners want to delay this hand-over and encourage public debate, but the public is largely unaware of what is at stake.

Obviously, you can't expect the Limbaughs, O'Reillys and their bosses or their president in the White House to give them talking points on preserving diversity of opinion while there is a tax cut to sell.

So speak America! It's your country, they're your air waves. Maybe you can pursue the American dream while you are asleep, but it will be too late to reclaim your country's freedom when you wake up.

*Ian Masters is the host of 'Back-
ground Briefing' on KPFK-FM
(90.7) in Los Angeles.*

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To Chairman Michael Powell,

5-4-03

We must protect our broadcast airwaves for us, the citizens of the U.S. by allowing access to all sides of news and issues as originally intended.

These days busy citizens, especially those who still have jobs, rely on T.V. news for fair balanced information. We rely on public debate to help us make thoughtful decisions when voting.

However, T.V. airwaves are increasingly the platform of commerce. Fewer owners than ever before feel empowered to espouse their personal philosophies. Some monopolists of the medium are recent arrivistes in the U.S. They are consequently unconcerned with the history, basic rights and interests of the U.S. citizens. They appear consumed by their search for profit and power. If there is no law to protect us from pure commercialization, write one. The necessary thoughtful debate of issues is increasingly absent/unavailable to viewers/listeners of and on important national issues.

We citizens feel resentful that we are marginalized by 3 or 4 monopolies of media companies in a single market. Such a situation strangles diversity. We want multiple viewpoints.

Presently our family has been forced to abandon the large commercial stations and seek complete information from, BBC, PBS, public radio, small university sponsored AM/FM radio, and print media. We want a fair platform of information back and available.

Anti-monopoly laws exist. Are they being enforced?

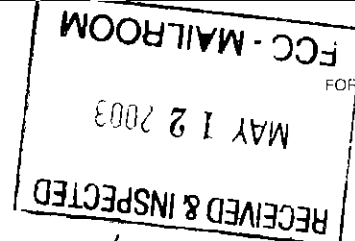
Adrian N. Schuchman

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MR KEVIN MARTIN

I DON'T LIKE SENDING FORM LETTERS LIKE THIS
BUT I FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT THE RIGHT TO
HEAR ALL SIDES OF EVERY STORY OR EVENT
REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME OR WHAT MAY OR
MAY NOT HAVE HAPPENED.

EVERY ONE SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT OR BE ABLE
TO MAKE UP THERE OWN MIND ABOUT WHAT
IS RIGHT OR THE TRUESIDE OF WHAT THEY SEE
OR WHAT THEY ARE TOLD OR WHAT THEY HEAR ON
TV, RADIO OR THE NEWSPAPER.

I FEEL THAT MUCH OF WHAT WE SEE ON TV
OR HEAR ON RADIO OR READ IN THE NEWSPAPER
IS SLANTED OR PRESENTED IN SOME WAY, FOR
MONEY FOR POWER FOR POLITICAL OR FOR
WHATEVER REASON.

I AM A LONG TIME MEMBER OF THE NRA AND
A RETIRED EMPLOYEE OF TEXACO INC.

THANK YOU FOR TAKEING THE TIME TO READ THIS
AND FOR HEARING MY THOUGHTS

James F Delaney

Mr. James F. Delaney
120 E Clark Road
Greene, NY 13778-2231

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May 7, 2003

ORIGINAL 02-217

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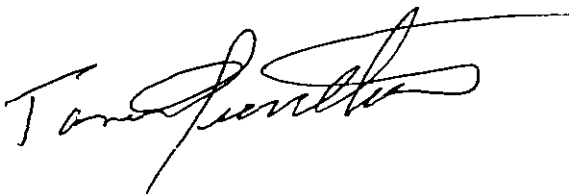
A Public Letter

Dear Reader:

Are you aware that the major media, talking heads and all, are lobbying the Federal Communication Commission, a Federal Agency, to relax the "Broadcast Ownership Rules" which prevent the Media Conglomerates from gaining monopoly control.

Should the Media Moguls succeed in this attempt to stifle our right to express our views by simply printing only those views which the media considers to be "correct" and keep us uninformed which thing is happening today all across this Nation. It is another attempt, as was McCain/Feingold, to take away our First Amendment Rights by not informing us.

You and I should be mightily disturbed at this turn of events, and get off our collective backsides and write, phone, E-mail or by whatever means, contact your elected Representatives in both House, Senate, and FCC. You have rights And obligations also.



Tom Gunther

cc Media
State Representatives
Federal Representatives
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